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E-633A

Wallenberg Committee of Greater Philadelphia  
c/o Philadelphia Art Alliance

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Philadelphia, PA 19103

215-472-0989

Leona T. Feldman, President

Prisoner Exchange Request

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

IS/FPC/CDR

Date: 10/1

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We ask for prisoner exchange negotiations to free Raoul Wallenberg from the Soviet Union as a priority of the Department of State. Prisoner exchange negotiations are realistic because we know the Soviets have been willing to exchange and have exchanged prisoners:

1. Soviet exchange overtures toward Sweden for Wallenberg are reported in John Bierman's 1981 biography of Wallenberg, Righteous Gentile, at p. 132; these involved two Soviet defectors and a number of Baltic refugees ("whenever the Wallenberg question has been raised, as a rule there has immediately been a question whether any favorable information has come in about Makarova, the Balts, or Granovsky").

2. Soviet exchanges were made for other World War II prisoners, including diplomatic and consular officials. Per Anger's 1981 biography of Wallenberg, With Raoul Wallenberg in Budapest, at pp. 150-151 and p. 154, describes Soviet exchanges for five Swiss officials, six Italians, and one Dane.

3. Soviet and Soviet-bloc exchanges are a continuing policy. Consistent with the materialism inherent in Marxism, trade in human life can be for commodities (as East Germany frees prisoners in exchange for bananas, coffee, and other goods) as well as for prisoners. When released in 1979, former Soviet prisoner Lajmonis Niedre said a top MVD official had told him that from the Soviet standpoint only exchange for someone else or an external plea on humanitarian grounds would be likely to free him (Per Anger, With Raoul Wallenberg in Budapest, p. 157).

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